



# ABOUT THE PROPER

*An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service*



## Holy Trinity Sunday

May 31, 2026



Say It Out Loud:  
“God Is Triune”

Holy Trinity Sunday is a time to celebrate God revealing himself as one God in three persons. God’s very existence is a mystery, far beyond our ability to comprehend. However, this doctrine is not meant to confuse us but bring us comfort and joy! While we cannot understand everything about our Triune God, we have been enlightened by faith to believe what he reveals about himself in his Word. Therefore, there is plenty about God’s majesty we do understand. We understand that God provides for us as a loving Father. We understand that Jesus paid for our sins through his death on the cross. We understand that the Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to grant us the greatest of blessings. On this Holy Trinity Sunday, let it be enough to know that all three persons – Father, Son, and Spirit – love us with an everlasting love!

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God and Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, filling and renewing all creation by your eternal Spirit, and manifesting your saving grace through our Lord Jesus Christ, in mercy cleanse our hearts and lips that, free from doubt and fear, we may ever worship you, one true, immortal God, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, living and reigning, now and forever. Amen.

### First Lesson <sup>1</sup>

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

When we read the account of creation here, we see all three persons of the Godhead at work. We read verse 1 in the context of John 1. God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—created a home for the crown of his creation. The Trinity was speaking to itself and of itself in the amazing words that displayed God’s intent for humankind: Let us make man in our image. The Triune God planned for creation’s crown to conform to His image. When Adam fell, it was the Triune God who resolved to restore man to the perfection in which he had been created. This plan to restore holiness to the world would involve all three persons to choose, redeem, and call us to himself.

### Second Reading <sup>1</sup>

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

The grace, the love, the fellowship. That is the story of the Trinity in the lives of believers. Grace is that which we don’t deserve; God’s love is what drove it; our fellowship with God and with each other is its result. We trust in God the Father, who fills us with hope. We trust in the Lord Jesus Christ: Lord—the one who bought us; Jesus—the name he carried here on earth when he came to save us; Christ—the office he filled for our salvation. We trust in the Holy Spirit, who called us by his power and by that same power causes us to overflow with hope and love for our fellowman.

### Gospel <sup>1</sup>

Matthew 28:16-20

On a mountain in Galilee they met a man who had died, but lived again. Some of his disciples doubted, but the ones that believed his word bent the knee and worshipped this man as God. If what this man said was true, then God had died for them; God had risen for them; and now, God himself was calling them to a ministry for all nations. God reveals himself as triune: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The God who made us is the God who saved us and is still the God who sets us apart. Many ancient heresies wanted to make Jesus less than a man. Most modern heresies don’t bother making him anything more than a man. But the Church teaches all nations to obey everything Jesus commanded us.

Psalm of the Day <sup>4</sup>

## Psalm 8 A

## “O LORD, OUR LORD”

The Church sings Psalm 8 to celebrate the glory of God’s creation and the special place of Jesus in it (1 Corinthians 15:27; Hebrews 2:6-8). The name of the true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – resounds around the earth. Martin Luther said, “Psalm 8 is a prophecy of Christ, his sufferings, resurrection, and rule as king over all creation. His kingdom is established through the mouths of babes, that is, without sword or armor, but through the Word alone and faith. The psalmist sings with joy that the gospel goes throughout the entire world, and the kingdom of God is extended through the cross.”

## Gospel Acclamation

## Isaiah 6:3

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” This was the call of the seraphs (a class of angels) at Isaiah’s commissioning. They were standing above the throne of the Lord in the throne room of heaven and praising God. Their threefold repetition of “holy” expresses that our God is supremely holy, and calls to mind the three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

## Hymn of the Day

## 586 “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest” (Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856)

This is one of the oldest of the ancient Latin hymns. It was written in the ninth century, but scholars are not sure of its author. The most likely one is Rhabanus Maurus, a monk, scholar, abbot and archbishop of Mainz in Germany. As the first stanza links the Holy Spirit to creation and filling the hearts of believers, stanza two calls on the Spirit as “Counselor” (cf. Romans 8:26).

Church Year Season <sup>1</sup>

## Season after Pentecost

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

## Colors &amp; Symbolism

## White

White is the color of our Triune God and heaven. It also symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity and innocence. We receive these blessings through faith because Christ, our righteousness Savior, has forgiven all our sins.

## Traditions &amp; Customs

## The Athanasian Creed

This creed is named after St. Athanasius, a staunch defender of the Christian faith in the fourth century. It was prepared to assist the Church in combating two errors that undermined Bible teaching. One error denied that God’s Son and the Holy Spirit are of one being or Godhead with the Father. The other error denied that Jesus Christ is true God and true man in one person. The Athanasian Creed continues to serve the Christian Church as a standard of the truth. It declares that whoever rejects the doctrine of the Trinity and the doctrine of Christ is without the saving faith.

## Nain Paraments

## Easter

Superfrontal: *Alleluia* is taken from a Hebrew word which means, “Praise the LORD.” It is a word of joy and gladness and most commonly used in the Psalms (e.g. 103). An ancient custom is to refrain from using the term during Lent in order to distinguish the penitential nature of that season from the joy and hope filled nature of the Easter season that follows. The vines and vegetation branching out from the *Alleluia* represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

Lectern antependium: The doves flying in front of the cross represent purity, innocence (Matthew 10:16), as well as spiritual and eternal rest (Psalm 55:6). When the dove has an olive branch or leaf in its beak, it is a symbol of hope and peace (Genesis 8:11). Each of these blessings and more come by Jesus’ death on the cross and through the gift of faith (Galatians 1:3,4).

Pulpit antependium: The cross is formed by the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P). Chi and Rho are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός). This ancient symbol represents Jesus and his office as the Messiah, the anointed King of kings and Savior of the world (Matthew 16:16). The vines and vegetation branching out from the cross represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

<sup>3</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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